

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)  
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)  
RENDERING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (RIAB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 3, 2020**

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum was established.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Mr. Michael Koewler.

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
D.O. "Spike" Helmick Jr.  
Jared Trawick  
Brad Fleeman  
Tyson Keever

**Interested Parties:**

Tad Bell  
David Isen  
Beatrice Poroli  
Pauline Lawrence  
Martin Perez  
Abel Mendoza  
Michael Payne

**CDFA:**

Dr. Annette Jones  
Paula Batarseh  
Michael Abbott

Laura Barlow  
Han Lai  
David Schurr  
Irene Sanchez  
Andrew Halbert  
Dr. Fernando Umayam  
Marc Shaw  
Paul SanGregorio  
Felipe Lerida  
Javon Williams  
Daysi Alcantar  
Lisa Quiroz

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from March 10, 2020.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Helmick made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Keever seconded. Mr. Trawick and Mr. Fleeman agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

**(4) BRANCH UPDATES / NEW STAFF**

Mrs. Batarseh stated that Michael Abbott has been promoted to lead the Egg Safety and Quality Management Program, Mr. Marc Shaw is now the Supervising Special Investigator and Ms. Javon Williams is a Special Investigator for the Fresno, California Area. Mrs. Han Lai, Senior Environmental Scientist was promoted to work specifically on carcass management issues. Mrs. Lai gave a brief overview of her education and experience.

**(5) SENATE BILL (SB) 1383**

Mrs. Batarseh gave a brief update on SB 1383. She stated that CalRecycle is reviewing the comments received from the fifteen (15) day public comment period, they expect to send the final regulation package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) within one (1) month. OAL usually takes thirty (30) days for their review, but with the COVID-19, they are requesting additional time to review.

CalRecycle is conducting case studies to help with franchise agreements and enforcement aspects of SB 1383 implementation. They are also developing model tools to help the generators and local jurisdictions. These tools will be available as soon as the regulations becomes effective.

Mrs. Batarseh stated that the Rendering Team will work closely with the local assistance group within CalRecycle to highlight specific requirements for inedible materials and

packinghouse waste to emphasize that this material needs to be segregated and sent to rendering, collection centers, or other authorized locations.

Ms. Lawrence stated that the model tools being created are for the recycling program coordinators to implement for diversion of organic wastes from landfills. The next set of model tools will be for the local enforcement teams moving forward with SB 1383 as well. RIAB members requested to have a presentation on model tools at the next board meeting.

Mr. Koewler stated that SB 2959 defines jurisdictional contracts as it relates to organic waste. Mr. Isen gave a brief overview of SB 2959 and how it relates to SB 1383. Mr. Bell stated that SB 2959 is still currently going through the legislative process.

**(6) ENFORCEMENT / OUTREACH UPDATES**

Mr. Shaw introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his work history to the RIAB.

Mr. Shaw gave a brief overview of the following:

- Mission/Strategy
  - Rendering Program Oversight
  - How to accomplish the mission
    - Compliance
    - Enforcement
    - Investigations
    - Outbreak
- Current workload
- Enforcement April/May, 2020

Mr. San Gregorio, Ms. Williams, Mr. Lerida and Ms. Alcantar provided a brief overview of their responsibilities and duties as Special Investigators and covered the following:

- Area of Responsibility
- Compliance Inspections
- Enforcement
- Education/Outreach Goal
- Investigation Updates

**(7) CARCASS MANAGEMENT / BARBITURATES**

Mrs. Batarseh stated that Mrs. Lai has been working closely with Lisa Quiroz from the Animal Health Branch (AHB) on the Rendering Disruption Plan and would like to seek input on the basic elements of the draft plan. CDFA has also been working closely with CalRecycle, the regional board, and agricultural commissioners and will be seeking their input as well.

Mrs. Lai stated that she has been working in collaboration with the AHB on the Rendering Disruption Plan with the intent establish a proactive and collaborative approach to address surges in animal mortalities. The initial goal of the plan is to bring different agencies and industries together and prepare and finalize a plan to be better prepared when responding to surges in mortalities. She presented an overview of the plan which included the scope, background, issues/challenges, and a communication strategy with a list of key contacts.

Mr. Koewler reiterated that Mrs. Lai would welcome comments from the RIAB and anyone involved with the industry.

Dr. Jones updated the group on the emergency regulations pertaining to marking of euthanized animals. She stated that to date she has received comments from the California Veterinary Medical Association and CDFA's legal Office. Once those comments are addressed the package will be sent to OAL.

**(8) REGULATORY CHANGES-EUTHANIZED ANIMALS & YELLOW GREASE**

Mr. Halbert discussed the larger regulatory package pertaining to euthanized animals which includes transportation, storage and ultimate disposition of euthanized animals. He indicated that the intent is to ensure that euthanized animals are not comingled with any other animals or animal parts. Mr. Halbert added that CDFA will be seeking input from RIAB members and interested parties in addressing long term issues that this emergency regulation may not have captured.

Mr. Halbert also discussed the Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG) definition in the Food and Agricultural Code which is any fat or used greases and oils obtained from any source. MPES will pursue amending the regulation to address the issue of yellow grease, therefore, allowing to regulate the transportation and movement of this product throughout the state. CDFA will also seek input from RIAB members and other interested parties as it moves forward with this regulatory package.

**(9) RENDERING LICENSING CRITERIA**

Mrs. Lai provided an overview of the criteria used to license renderers. She provided a summary table, which describes the parameters that are assessed with any new technology. Areas of focus included the rendering process, feed materials, pathogen reduction critical steps, and the final product produced.

Mrs. Lai covered three (3) types of CDFA licensed renderers which included traditional renderers, anaerobic digesters and enzyme assistance digesters followed by heat pasteurization and stabilization.

Mr. Trawick asked if the process has been validated and whether temperatures are being recorded at anaerobic digesters to ensure that they are equivalent to rendering temperatures.

Mr. Schurr stated that anaerobic digesters have a verifiable written process in place that identifies the critical control points validated and verified that shows pathogen reduction. The requirement is not to meet a specific rendering temperature to be licensed as a renderer, but the finished and final product has to be the same.

Mr. Bell stated that there needs to be a standard of pathogen reduction required by CDFA that is verifiable and documented; currently the definition is no pathogens are detected after going through the rendering process.

Mrs. Lai stated that results showed that only 2% of the samples collected had pathogens above detectable levels based on data submitted from East Bay Mud in 2019. Mrs. Lai stated that this information is public record.

Dr. Jones stated that the process could be revisited to put regulations in place describing exactly what applicants will need to meet as far as pathogen reduction standards. Mr. Bell stated that the 40 CFR Part 503 standard is not adequate.

**(10) RIAB VACANCIES**

Mr. Koewler stated that there are two (2) vacancies within the RIAB. Two (2) applications have been received for the vacancies. The final date for submitting applications is June 5, 2020, after this date the applications will be sent to the CDFA Secretary for approval.

**(11) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**(12) FUTURE RIAB AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items:

- Carcass Management
- SB1383
- Barbiturates
- Rendering Licensing Criteria
- Definition of Yellow Grease
- RIAB Vacancies
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

**(13) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

The next RIAB meeting will be Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks location.

(14) **ADJOURN**

Mr. Koewler, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Fleeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Trawick seconded. Mr. Helmick and Mr. Keever agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12am.